

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0322
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01130

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM AMB LEONARD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, PEPR, RH, UK, US
SUBJECT: YOUNG INTERVIEW WITH "ZIMBABWE TIMES" ON
RHODESIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTER
TICKER ITEM CONCERNING INTERVIEW YOU REPORTEDLY GAVE IN
US TO ZIMBABWE TIMES:

BEGIN TEXT:

SALISBURY, MARCH WIN REUTER - AMERICAN ENVOY
ANDREW YOUNG SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED TODAY THE
RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WAS A SUICIDE PLAN
FOR WESTERN INTERESTS THAT COULD LEAD TO CIVIL WAR AND
BRING DOWN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

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IN THE INTERVIEW IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE
BLACK RHODESIAN NEWSPAPER THE ZIMBABWE TIMES, MR. YOUNG
ALSO POINTED TO A DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH ON THE ISSUE
BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE US.

"I FRANKLY THINK THAT THE BRITISH PEOPLE WANT TO
WASH THEIR HANDS OF THE RHODESIA ISSUE AND ALMOST DON'T
CARE WHAT HAPPENS," HE SAID. THEY WOULD LIKE A QUICK

SOLUTION THAT WOULD TURN IT OVER TO (PREMIER IAN) SMITH AND THEY WOULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

"WE HAVE SAID THAT WE CANNOT DO THAT, AND THAT TO HAVE RHODESIA GO THROUGH, FOR TWO YEARS EVEN, WHAT ANGOLA HAS GONE THROUGH, WOULD DESTROY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRIES.

"THE THING THAT WOULD BE THE MOST DISASTROUS TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE A CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA. IT WOULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN," HE SAID.

MR. YOUNG SAID THE MAJORITY RULE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY MR. SMITH AND THREE BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS "IS A SUICIDE PLAN FOR WESTERN INTERESTS BECAUSE IT OPENS THE DOOR FOR CONTINUED CONFLICT THAT INEVITABLY WOULD NOT ONLY BE IN RHODESIA BUT WOULD SPILL OVER INTO ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA.

"POTENTIALLY, IT WOULD GIVE COMMUNISTS THE CONTROL OF THE WHOLE MIDDLE BELT OF AFRICA AND WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO ALONG WITH THAT."

ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PROPOSALS INSIST ON THE INCLUSION IN ANY AGREEMENT OF THE FOREIGN-BASED PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLA ALLIANCE WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE MARCH 3 SALISBURY ACCORD. THE FRONT, SUPPORTED BY FIVE AFRICAN "FRONT-LINE" STATES MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE RHODESIA DISPUTE, PLEDGED AT THE WEEKEND TO STEP UP THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FIVE-YEAR-OLD GUERRILLA WAR IN RHODESIA.

MR. YOUNG SAID THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN WOULD BRING SEVERAL THOUSAND UN TROOPS INTO RHODESIA AS A PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND WAS THE ONLY GUARANTEE AGAINST CIVIL WAR.

MR. YOUNG SAID THE UN FORCES WOULD PROBABLY COMPRISE FINNISH, SWEDISH, IRISH, CANADIAN AND WEST INDIAN TROOPS.

"YOU WOULD HAVE A NEUTRAL MILITARY BODY THAT WOULD PROVIDE LAW AND ORDER BETTER THAN IT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE LAST 12 YEARS," HE SAID. THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT DOES NOT SAY WHERE THE ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD COME FROM TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE EVENT THAT THERE WERE ATTACKS FROM COMMUNISTS ON THE OUTSIDE."

THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ASSOCIATED WITH SOMETHING WHICH ENDED IN MASSACRE OR EXPULSION OF WHITES IT WOULD DISCREDIT EVERYTHING THE PRESIDENT HAD TRIED TO DO.

"I THINK THE SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA IS THE KEY TO A SETTLEMENT ALSO IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IF 250,000 WHITES

CAN LIVE PEACEFULLY AND PROSPEROUSLY WITH SEVEN MILLION
BLACKS IN RHODESIA IT SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR BLACKS AND
WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA," HE SAID.

"THE RHODESIA PROBLEM IS GOING TO SETTLE
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER PRETTY SOON," HE ADDED. THE
DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR US IS SOUTH AFRICA." END TEXT.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. AMB RICHARD INDIGNANTLY DREW MY
ATTENTION TO THIS ITEM AND WE HAVE ASKED CAPE TOWN AND
PRETORIA TO TRY TO GET FULL TEXT OF "ZIMBABWE TIMES"
STORY. UNDERSTAND TIMES IS PUBLISHED IN SALISBURY. TOM
OFFENBURGER IS NOT AWARE OF ANY INTERVIEW YOU HAVE GIVEN
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TO "ZIMBABWE TIMES" IN RECENT WEEKS. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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